

## Japanese Garden to Host Annual Origami Festival on July 15

Children and adults will be delighted to learn the traditional Japanese art of origami, or paper folding at the 2007 Origami Festival, which is set for Sunday, July 15, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden on the campus of California State University, Long Beach. The garden is located on Earl Warren Drive, across from lot 16 where parking is free.

The first and last thing you need to do origami is paper. There lies the simple beauty of origami, the art of understatement. The word origami comes from the Japanese words “ori”, to fold, and “gami”, paper. Origami has many purposes. It is an excellent hobby or past time. The benefits of origami, however, go beyond the pleasure and decorative qualities of its creation. The memorization of the folds can strengthen one’s memory and the geometry of the folds is known to aid development in mathematics.

More than 30 experts from local and national origami clubs and enthusiasts will teach guests how to make origami wild animals and create a safari setting to put them in and take home. Geometric forms, playthings, and so much more will spring to life out of paper. Demonstrations on other uses of origami, such as how to “wrap” or “fold” your baby will be featured. Activities for all ages and skill levels will be available, emphasizing that origami is completely multicultural and multigenerational. Paper will be provided free of charge to the public.

“The art and practice of origami delights and inspires practitioners from age 2 to 92,” says education coordinator Alison Redfoot. “The annual Origami Festival at the Japanese Garden takes the mystery out of following the many steps to achieve a fold, but keeps in all the fun,” No RSVP required. Admission: \$7 adults, \$6 seniors, \$5 Japanese Garden members, children 12 and under free. For more information call the Education 562/985-8420.



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